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EARLY STATE RECORDS PROJECT

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An Act for levying a Tax of Six-Pence on the Pound, on the Polls and rateable Estate of the inhabitants of this State, and for the Redemption of the Paper Currency, and supplying the Treasury.

WHEREAS the Circumstances of the Paper Currency are such as render it necessary that the same be taken out of Circulation, as soon as may be; and that Provision be made for the farther Supply of the Treasury.

BE it enacted, and it is hereby enacted by the Representatives of the Freemen of the State of Vermont, *in General Assembly met, and by the Authority of the same;* That a Tax be levied on the Polls and rateable Estate of the Inhabitants of the several Towns within this State, of Six-Pence on the Pound, to be paid into the Treasury by the First Day of *December* next ensuing:—And that the Treasurer be directed forthwith to issue his Warrant to the Constables of the several Towns, directing them to levy and collect the said Rate of Six-Pence on the Pound, and deliver the Sum total of said Tax into the Treasury, by the First Day of *December* aforesaid.

AND be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Bills of Credit of this State, that have been, nor any that shall be hereafter received into the Treasury, by Means of any Tax already levied, or that may be levied, shall again be put into Circulation, but immediately destroyed in Manner following, *viz.*

THAT a Committee of Three shall be chosen by Ballot, by this Assembly, who being sworn to a faithful Discharge of their Office, and bound in a Bond of Ten Thousand Pounds, for the due Performance thereof, shall receive of the Treasurer the aforesaid Bills, giving their Receipt therefor, specifying the Amount of the same; and immediately on the Receipt thereof, shall cause them to be wholly and effectually destroyed, by being burnt.

AND be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Treasurer be directed forthwith to issue his Extents against the several delinquent Collectors of the Eight-Penny Tax, levied agreeable to an Act of Assembly passed at their Session in *June* last.

AND be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Treasurer be impowered and directed to issue his Warrants to the Constables of the several Towns who have not made Returns of the Sum due from such Town, on Account of the Eight-Penny Tax, and to issue his Extents to the Sheriffs of the respective Counties, for the Distraint and Recovery of the Amount of said Eight-Penny Tax, from the delinquent Constables: Which Sheriffs are hereby empowered and required to execute said Extents, in the same Manner as they are by Law directed to execute other Writs of Execution.

27th October 1781.

THE preceeding is a true Copy of an Act passed by the Legislature of the State of VERMONT, *this Day.*

ATTEST,
MICAH TOWNSEND, *Sec'ry.*

WESTMINSTER:
Printed by JUDAH P. SPOONER, Printer to the State of VERMONT.

The act entitled "An Act levying a tax of six pence on the poles and rateable estate of the Inhabitants of this State and for the redemption of the paper currency and supplying the Treasury" is not printed as a part of the Sessions Laws of Vermont for the session of October 1781. Neither does it appear in Slade's State Papers.

The session of October 1781 was held at Charlestown, New Hampshire, which town, with a number of other New Hampshire towns, had at that time been annexed to the State of Vermont. The history of the act appears in the original journal (unprinted) of the session, now in the office of the Secretary of State at Montpelier, Vermont.

On October 18, 1781, a committee that had been appointed to consider the paper currency reported, in part, by Elisha Payne (a New Hampshire man, who was later at this session elected Deputy Governor of Vermont).

"That a tax of one shilling upon the pound, exclusive of any tax heretofore laid, be immediately assessed upon the polls and rateable estates and collected by the first day of December next.

"That the bills of credit of this state yet on hand and those which shall be paid into the Treasury, be destroyed excepting a sufficiency to defray the services of the present session".

The legislature thereupon "Ordered that a committee of three be appointed to prepare a bill agreeable to said Report - the members chosen, Mr. Jacob, Mr. Phelps and Mr. Curtiss".

On October 23, 1781, this committee reported that so

nearly as they could ascertain there was outstanding 21,300 £ of the paper currency of the state. The Journal then says:

"An Act entitled 'An Act levying a tax of six pence in the pound on the poles and rateable estate of the inhabitants of this state'", etc., was read, and after some debate

"Resolved that a committee of three be appointed to make such amendments in said act as they shall judge best, and make report to this House - the members chosen Mr. Payne, Mr. Weld and Mr. Curtiss".

On October 23, 1781, the Journal recites that the foregoing act was read and passed the house.

On October 26, 1781, the act was again read and passed the House, and the Journal says:

"Resolved that a committee of three be appointed by ballot for the purposes mentioned in the last passed Act. The ballot being taken the Honble Timothy Brownson and John Fassett, Esquires, and Matthew Lyon, Esquire, were elected".

For some reason the act was printed separately. The text does not appear in the Journal, and its omission from Slade's State Papers some forty years later may be due to his inability to secure a copy of the Act.